

Catholic education in Queensland

Catholic schools aim to cater for the needs of all students and families and welcome students from diverse cultural, social and economic backgrounds.

There are **302** Catholic schools and **25** Catholic kindergartens delivering services across Queensland.



The first Catholic school in Queensland was established in **1845** in Brisbane. It opened with **56** students.



Catholic schools in Queensland serve metropolitan, regional, rural and remote communities in locations ranging from Thursday Island to Longreach and south to the border.

Five diocesan (regional) school authorities and **17** Religious Institutes and other incorporated bodies operate Catholic schools in Queensland.



Today in Queensland, more than **147,000** students, or **1** in every **5** students are educated in a Catholic school.



Enrolments in Queensland Catholic schools have grown by an average of approximately **2.0%** each year over the past decade.

More than **19,000** teachers and staff are employed by Catholic School Authorities around the State.

Vision

Shaping the future through prophetic leadership in Catholic education.

Mission

Serving the Catholic Church through Catholic education in Queensland by leading, collaborating and advocating for the common good.



Queensland Catholic Education Commission

Supporting and advancing Catholic education in Queensland



Queensland Catholic Education Commission

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About QCEC

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) is the peak body representing the interests of Catholic education in Queensland.

QCEC holds a state-wide strategic role, focused on the coordination and advancement of Catholic education in Queensland.

Led by an independent Chairperson, the Commission consists of 16 members including the QCEC Executive Director, the directors of the five diocesan (regional) school authorities and representatives of:

- the Bishops of Queensland
- the leaders of Religious Institutes and other incorporated bodies
- the Federation of Parents and Friends Associations
- the Diocesan Catholic education councils and boards.

The Commission is supported by a Secretariat and draws on the wisdom and expertise within the sector through a series of committees.

Catholic schools in Queensland are administered by five diocesan school authorities and 17 Religious Institutes and other incorporated bodies.

Functions of QCEC

The Bishops and leaders of Religious Institutes and other incorporated bodies have delegated a number of responsibilities to QCEC. Key functions are to:

- **Negotiate and distribute government funding** to Catholic schools
- **Advocate and promote** the position of Catholic education
- **Liaise** with state and federal governments, partners and peak bodies, including the representative body for parents
- **Communicate and respond** to state-wide issues
- **Provide advice on industrial relations matters**, conduct independent investigations and lead enterprise bargaining processes in conjunction with and on behalf of Queensland Catholic school employing authorities
- **Facilitate state-wide collaboration** in areas such as curriculum, information and communication technologies, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, religious education outside Catholic schools, education for ministry and social justice matters
- **Research, collect and manage** statistical, financial and educational information and data.



Why Catholic schools?

Research shows that parents and students choose Catholic schools for a number of reasons including:

- Excellent **academic outcomes**
- Strong **partnerships** between families, school and community
- **Personalised** student attention
- A spirited school community focused on **Christian values**
- Development of **self-discipline** based on respect for others
- A vision of **hope** for the future.

